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programme.

Mr. BERNARD's bill consists mainly of three parts. The first provides for the introduction of a nominee Upper House, the second for the calling of a plebiscite in the event of continued quarrel between the two Chambers, and the third for the making of moneys available immediately on their being voted by the Lower House. The last of these provisions, which forms the sixth clause of Mr. BERNARD's bill, is intended to clear up the difficulty left by the 46th clause of the Constitution Act. It is maintained by the Ministerial party that this clause gives the Government power to use moneys as soon as they are voted by the Assembly. But as this point is not so clear as could be wished the sixth clause of the Ministerial Reform Bill has been introduced to place it beyond a doubt. The power pro-

vided for in the clause, however, is so extreme and so dangerous that Mr. BERRY himself is now shrinking from it. He probably sees that it would supply an instrument which, under different circumstances to those existing at

present, might be as inconvenient to himself as it is now convenient. It would certainly give any unscrupulous Ministry the power to tyrannize over the Lower, as well as over the Upper House. Mr. BERRY sees this, and is

now content, if not to drop the sixth clause altogether, to so far modify it as to limit its action to the rejection of an Appropriation Bill by the second Chamber. This would certainly meet any such difficulty as the one

which has led to the present trouble; but if Mr. BERRY would adopt some measure which would provide against tacks he would hardly find it necessary to contemplate the rejection of an Appropriation Bill at all. In arguing

for the right, under any circumstances, to employ moneys on their being voted by the Assembly alone, Mr. BERRY is seeking a change which is utterly out of harmony with the British Constitution, and it is the spirit of that Constitution, he has told us, that

It will be seen then, that even the Ministry itself does not desire the Reform Bill to pass in its present shape. The two things left when the sixth clause is eliminated are

when the sixth clause is eliminated or modified are the plebiscitum, and the nominee Upper House. It is certainly remarkable that a Ministry which prides itself above everything else upon being a Ministry of the people, should identify itself with two such

people, should identify itself with two such despotic provisions as these, and that it should fight for them with so much tenacity. It is equally remarkable that the Conservative who has figured most prominently in the present Constitutional crusade, should be

the one who has taken the most active part in the attempt to popularize the second Chamber. Mr. BERRY, however, much as he wants the second Chamber to become subservient, does not want to have it

popularized. Any scheme, he says, which would bring the Upper House more in harmony with the spirit of representative institutions would increase its power, and thus, instead of removing, would intensify the

present difficulty. Hence Mr. BERRY contends for a Nominee Upper House, which would change its members at regular intervals, and could be packed by a Government that wanted to use it for party purposes.

The clauses of the present BERRY Reform Bill which provide for a Nominee Council is exactly in harmony with the clause which proposes to make moneys available immediately on their being voted by the

Assembly. The tendency of both clauses is to make the Executive absolute, and thus to destroy the spirit of responsible Government. The plebiscite, if worked at all, must work in the same direction, but still more danger-

ously. Mr. SERVICE pointed out last week that it would emasculate debate, that it would place political power in the hands of the towns at the expense of the country electors, and might in the end leave a difficulty in the way of the country electors.

settled after all. The most serious objection to the experiment of a plebiscite — for it is nothing more than an experiment — is that it destroys the very idea of Parliamentary government by placing the final decision in the hands of

placing the final decision in the hands of a primary Assembly instead of that of a representative one, and that it would create a machinery that would be almost certainly used for the purposes of Ministerial despotism rather than for those of the public good.

rather than for those of the public good. In these respects the three principal provisions of the BERRY Reform Bill tend to one conclusion, and to a conclusion which all well-wishers to the colony of Victoria must deprecate.

It is satisfactory to find that many who voted with the majority on the second reading of the Government Reform Bill did so not because they approved of the measure as it stands, but because they did not wish to declare themselves against the principle

to declare themselves against the principle of reform, or because they had no desire to see the present Government displaced. From this we may conclude that the measure will not get through the Lower House in its present shape and it is doubtful whether it

present shape, and it is doubtful whether it will get through at all. It is still more uncertain whether it will be endorsed by the Council; and even if Mr. Bennett should be fortunate enough to pilot his scheme through the Victorian Par-

liament, he has little chance of being successful at home. We were told last week that in the opinion of most of the leading journals in England, even in that of the *Spectator* which has been Mr. BRAY's pri-

cipal champion, the Government in adopting the plebiscitum has not followed Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH's advice, and in the judgment of the *Times* the Ministerial party will be precluded from again

asking the Home Government to intervene. Thus, notwithstanding the second reading of the Ministerial Bill, it is to be feared that the settlement of the Reform question is as far off as ever, and should this

turn out to be the case, it must be held that the cause of it is not the intractableness of the Council, but the unreasonableness and the wilfulness of the Government.

An anonymous circular, suggesting by a series of questions a number of charges against the management of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, has been distributed extensively amongst the subscribers. It may be laid down as a

rule that no respectable committee, entrusted with the affairs of a public institution, need feel itself called upon to notice attacks of this character. A committee should be prepared to defend its conduct before meetings of members of the society to which it belongs, and to answer inquiries or accusations.

sations which may be made, on such occasions, by parties who have the courage to come forward openly; but anonymous assailants cannot claim the same consideration, and may generally be ignored until they declare themselves. In the present case, however, it seems that the committee

thought well to draw up renlies to the course

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, with H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, has laid the foundation-stone of the new Eddystone lighthouse.

Prince Albert Victor will enter the military academy at Woolwich next term as Queen's cadet. Prince George will be trained for the Navy at the Royal College, Greenwich.

A serious riot has occurred at Lurgan, in Ireland. A collision took place on Assumption Day between the Home Rulers and factory operatives. Constables interfered, and used arms, killing two and wounding several Catholics. The mob subsequently wrecked the houses of the Protestants, who retaliated. The police again interfered, and restored order.

The Miners' Conference at Manchester has resolved upon the establishment of a national emigration fund. Any class of workmen in the United Kingdom will be eligible for membership. Branches are to be formed in every district. The association is of a voluntary character.

Colonel Arbutnot has given notice that he will early next session call attention to the failure of the Colonial Decks Loans Act and the Colonial Defence Bill. He has already taken an address to the House of Commons, pointing out that an address was presented to the Queen, praying for a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the causes. The Commission is also to inquire what means can be realized an effective colonial co-operation with the British Navy for the protection of British commerce in time of war.

The Government, acting on the recommendation of Major Trotter, Consul at Erzeroum, has resolved to appoint Colonel Wilson Consul-General at Siraz, with assistants at Erzeroum, Diarbeker, Khartpool, and for other points in Armenia, who will inquire into the condition of the various classes of the population and on the advice of the Turkish authorities represent against any oppression or corruption on the part of the local officials, thus giving practical effect to the Anglo-Turkish convention.

Lord Chemsford and Colonels Wood and Bull arrived at Plymouth on the 26th. They were enthusiastically received. Lord Chemsford is now visiting the Queen at Balmoral. Lieutenant Carey arrived on the 20th. He was informed on board that the proceedings of the African court-martial had been quashed.

and was informed after landing by Prince Edward Saxe-Weimair that her Majesty's advisers considered the evidence did not support the finding of the court martial. He was therefore released. He retains his rank, and is ordered to rejoin his regiment. The report of the Adjutant-General, written at the request of the War Office, is as follows:

confirms, however, in a certain measure the charges against Lieutenant Carey. The report says that, while Colonel Harrison is to blame for allowing the Prince Imperial to proceed on a reconnaissance, Lieutenant Carey misconceived the duties of his position through out and acted in a manner which is much to be regretted.

The annual meeting of the British Association opened at Sheffield on the 31st. Professor Alcock

At a crowded and enthusiastic meeting of workmen at Sheffield, for the purpose of taking steps to promote the emigration of surplus labour, a resolution was passed expressing the opinion that it was absolutely necessary to have a meeting of the kind at London.

The prospectus of the New South Wales Mortgage and Agency Company, (capital £500,000),

Loan, and Agency Company (capital, 200,000) has been issued. There will be 50,000 shares at £10 each of which 10,000 shares are reserved for subscription Australia. The nominal capital is £1,000,000, with power to increase. The business of the company will comprise the lending of money on freehold and similar securities in New South Wales and other Australian

The Russian Government has ordered a rep drawn up on the means of connecting the C

Black seas by a canal.

Serious signs of disturbance are observed in the Russian peasantry in many districts. The declaration of the Minister of the Interior, the name of the Czar the permanent disposition of the law, is designed to meet

A singular project has made some progress. A number of Catholics and Royalists have united in a scheme for seeking liberty to uphold the Catholic faith by fleeing to the island of Papua, where they contemplate the establishment of a monastery. A vessel

Owing to the small support to the Panama Company the issue of shares was suspended and the subscription paid were returned in full. Meanwhile the contract has resolved to proceed at his own cost with a survey of the ground anew. M. de Lessens will go to the

United States to deal with the hostility of the Government to his scheme. The company will not be definitely established until his return.

Rev. John Graham, late Congregational minister Sydney, was drowned at Cape May, Philadelphia, while attempting to save the lives of some relatives.

danger.

THE CABUL MASSACRE.

BOMBAY, SEPT. 12.

The news of the Cabul massacre caused intense excitement throughout India. Certain regiments, it

believed 12 in number, had lately returned from Her where they had already shown strong symptoms mutiny against the Ameer, and had assembled in the Bala Hisar to receive the arrears of pay which they demanded. They subsequently broke out into violent mutiny, and stoned their officers. They next proceeded

to swarm the Residency, which is inside the Bala Hissar, and burst opened the gateway leading to the courtyard, but were received with a heavy and effective fire from the British escort in the city. The mob then poured into the Bala Hissar, and plundered and destroyed the Ameer's arsenal and magazine stores, a

joined the mutineers in attacking the Residency in overwhelming numbers. The attack and defence continued all one day until the evening, when, finding they could not storm the place, they set fire to the doorways below, and when that gave way they swarmed and up to the upper story. The defenders, charging o

completely wrecked. It is stated that 210 Cabulese were killed. Two or three mutinous regiments are stated to have marched from Cabul. The Amer's general, Daoud Shap, went to the assistance of the Residents. He was, however, attacked and unhorsed. He ne

sent his son and the Governor of Cabul and some influential people, but without avail. The Ameer was terribly perplexed and confused, and asked our assistance. A Ghilzai chief, who holds the country beyond Shutargardan, has offered his services. The behavior of the tribes along the Kurram border at present is not unreasonable. Amir Talleh Khan, a descendant of the Amir of Cabul, has been appointed

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Miscellaneous.

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